

30 June 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Management Staff, OCI
SUBJECT : Representative Ichord's letter to
Mr. Helms, 18 June 1970

1. A quick review of OER publications came up with none which specifically linked Lon Nol with the sale of rice to the VC/NVA forces, as reported in the New York Times of 30 May 1970. Perhaps Representative Ichord's alarm would be lessened if he realized that Sihanouk himself admitted to the sale of "rice, medicine and other goods" to the Communists (see attached FBIS report of 28 November 1967 press conference).

2. To my knowledge no OER report discussed the Lon Nol negotiations with the North Vietnamese as reported in the Sunday Star of 31 May 1970.

3. There are any number of OER reports as well as ONE publications which speak about the complicity of Lon Nol in the delivery of arms and ammunition to the Communist forces. The closest that any of these reports comes to linking Lon Nol with rice sales was in the tightly controlled SNIE 14.3-69, which read as follows in Para 53:

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[REDACTED] have provided a reasonably detailed and consistent picture of an organization within the Cambodian Army and implicating the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Defense, General Lon Nol, which controls these arms shipments to the Communists, as well as deliveries of food and other supplies.

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One additional report [redacted], OER,
October 1969, did speak of Lon Nol negotiating with
Peking (in 1966 or 1967) in regard to the sending of
arms and other supplies via Sihanoukville. This
report had a fairly wide distribution.

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Economic Research

Attachment:
As stated.

Distribution:
Orig. & 1 - Addressee
2 - OD/OER
1 - DD/OER
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DD/OER: [redacted]:ajs/5001(30 Jun 70)

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